

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 239201

TOSEC 389

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TRAVELING PRESS, EVENING, WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 30

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 21

1. SCHWEID'S AP NITE LEAD GOES LIKE THIS: "HENRY A. KISSINGER CAME TO BANGLADESH TODAY FOR HIS FIRST LOOK AT THE STARVING COUNTRY HE PREDICTED 3 YEARS AGO WOULD BECOME AN 'INTERNATIONAL BASKET CASE.'" PLAYS STARVATION THEME HEAVILY, QUOTING FONMIN HOSSAIN, (WHOM HE SAYS WAS ONCE HAK STUDENT) AT BANQUET IN HAK'S HONOR. NOTING SECRETARY JUST ARRIVING FROM INDIA WHERE HE TREATED "TILT" WOUNDS, SCHWEID REHEARSES ORIGIN/EVENTS OF 1971 INDO-PAK WAR AND CONCLUDES PIECE WITH STARK PICTURE OF BD'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS.

2. DANILOFF ON UPI OVERNIGHT MORE RESTRAINED, LEADING WITH HAK'S PLEDGE U.S. WILL DO ITS BEST WITHIN ITS
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CAPACITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT.

DANILOFF UNDERSTANDS U.S. TO COMMIT ANOTHER 100,000 TONS OF GRAIN ADDING TO \$23 MILLION IN FOOD AID PROFERRED BANGLADESH DURING SUMMER FLOODS. DRAMATIC TOUCH APPEARS WHEN HE REPORTS HAK'S SLEEK JET SWOOPED OVER STILL-SWOLLEN RIVERS SURROUNDING DACCA, EXISTENCE THERE OF GRUEL KITCHENS TO KEEP REFUGEES ALIVE AND NOXIOUS CONDITIONS OF REFUGEE CAMPS WHICH TRAVELING JOURNALISTS VISITED. DANILOFF ALSO PLAYS HIGH-UP HAK'S EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS STILL POSSIBLE DESPITE RABAT DECISION, AND THAT HE PLANNED VISIT AREA TO ASSAY PROSPECTS NOTWITHSTANDING ISRAELI OBDURACY ON PLO ISSUE.

3. ABC. KOPPEL NO-SHOWED BUT HKSMITH SHOWED DEPRESSING PHOTOGRAPHY OF MISERABLE HUMAN CONDITIONS IN BANGLADESH WITH THIS COMMENTARY:

SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, ENROUTE FROM INDIA TO BANGLADESH, TOLD NEWSMEN HE DIDN'T THINK THAT THE ARABS MEANT TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, AND SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY VISIT THE ME NEXT WEEK.

THE PROBLEMS SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL FIND IN BANGLADESH DO NOT INCLUDE WAR, BUT BAD POLITICS, BAD BREAKS FROM NATURE, FLOOD, FAMINE, PESTILENCE. (FILMED REPORT FROM JIM BENNETT IN BD FOLLOWS):

BENNETT: "BANGLADESH IS A COUNTRY OF CONTRADICTIONS. ITS LEADER SHEIKH RAHMAN STILL FAILS TO GRASP HIS COUNTRY'S TWO MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS, BIRTH CONTROL AND FLOOD CONTROL. HE HAS YET TO DEVISE OR FORMULATE ANY ADEQUATE PROGRAMS TO SOLVE EITHER PROBLEM. SEVEN BABIES ARE BORN EVERY MINUTE IN BANGLADESH, 10,000 EVERY DAY. THE 55,000 SQUARE MILE COUNTRY HAS THE HIGHEST POPULATION DENSITY OF ANY NATION IN THE WORLD, 13,000 PEOPLE TO THE SQUARE MILE. DEATH APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY POPULATION CONTROL THE LEADERS OF BANGLADESH UNDERSTAND. IT'S BELIEVED THAT 3 MILLION BENGALIS WERE EFFECTED BY THIS YEAR'S FLOOD ALONE. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT BETWEEN 70 AND 80 THOUSAND PERSONS HAVE ALREADY DIED FROM HUNGER AND DISEASE. AS FOR THE FLOODS THEY ARE ANNUAL AND AS PREDICTABLE AS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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RESULTING FAMINE. EACH YEAR THE FLOODS WASH AWAY CLOSE TO 50 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S RICE CROP. AND EACH YEAR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS ARE LEFT HOMELESS TO BE FED AND HOUSED BY AN EMBARRASSED GOVERNMENT. STATISTICS ARE NOT EASY TO COME BY BUT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT EACH YEAR THE GOVERNMENT MUST PROVIDE NEARLY 300,000 MORE HOMES AND 12,000 MORE SCHOOLS JUST TO KEEP UP WITH THE EXPANDING POPULATION. THE COUNTRY'S LIMITED INDUSTRY CANNOT KEEP

PACE WITH THE 700,000 PEOPLE WHO ANNUALLY ENTER THE LABOR FORCE. FOREIGN INVESTORS SEE LITTLE FUTURE IN PUTTING MONEY INTO ITS SHAKEY ECONOMY MAINLY BECAUSE BANGLADESH APPEARS TO DO SO LITTLE TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS. THIS IS THE MORASS INTO WHICH DR. KISSINGER STEPS; HE WILL FIND THE HANDS OF THE LEADERS OF THIS IMPOVERISHED

STRICKEN COUNTRY EXTENDED AS HE STEPS OFF HIS PLANE. NOT SO MUCH IN GREETING AS IN SUPPLICATION. FOR WITHOUT U.S. HELP BANGLADESH HAS LITTLE HOPE OF SURVIVAL."

4. NBC NEWS WITH CHANCELLOR, 20 MINUTES INTO PROGRAM REPORTS ON RABIN REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH PLO, HASSAN THREAT OF ANOTHER WAR IF ISRAEL DOESN'T ACCEPT RABAT DECISION, SAID THIS:

"DURING THE BANGLADESH STOP ON HIS CURRENT TOUR, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SAID HE IS STILL CONFIDENT THE PEACE TALKS WILL GO ON, DESPITE RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AND DESPITE ISRAEL'S INSISTENCE THAT IT WON'T DEAL WITH THE ORGANIZATION.

"IN BANGLADESH, THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS CERTAIN TO BE FACED WITH APPEALS FOR HUGE QUANTITIES OF AMERICAN GRAIN. THERE'S WIDESPREAD STARVATION IN BANGLADESH. THE COUNTRY IS FAR WORSE OFF ECONOMICALLY SINCE IT WON INDEPENDENCE FROM PAKISTAN. JACK REYNOLDS HAS A REPORT FROM BD."

REYNOLDS (VOICE OVER REVOLTING FILM CLIPS OF PEOPLE DYING): "IN THE DISTRICT OF RANGPUR ALONE, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 50,000 PEOPLE HAVE DIED OF STARVATION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP OVER 4,000 SO-CALLED "GRUEL KITCHENS", BUT THIS IS NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH. THE FAMINE UNCLASSIFIED

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IS CAUSED BY THIS YEAR'S RECORD FLOODS, WHICH DESTROYED MUCH OF THE CROP.

"NOW, THE PEOPLE OF RANGPUR ARE REAPING ANOTHER KIND OF HARVEST: DEATH BY STARVATION. THE FIRST VICTIMS OF FAMINE ARE ALWAYS THE VERY OLD AND THE VERY YOUNG. SOME OF THE OLDER PEOPLE ARE ON THE POINT OF DEATH ALREADY. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE FOOD HAS COME TOO LATE. THE CHILDREN ARE BEWILDERED; THEY SEEM ALMOST PUZZLED THAT THEY DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO RUN AND PLAY ANY MORE. MANY OF THEM ARE CLOSE TO DEATH, AND OF THOSE THAT SURVIVE, MANY WILL SUFFER PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE.

"THE SADDEST SIGHT IN RANGPUR IS THE MARKETPLACE. HERE, PEOPLE ARE COOKING GRASS AND GARBAGE. THESE ARE THE ONES

WHO DO NOT EVEN HAVE THE STRENGTH TO MAKE IT TO THE GRUEL KITCHEN, LESS THAN A MILE AWAY."

SWITCH BACK TO CHANCELLOR ON TRIPLE VETO OF SOUTH AFRICAN EXPULSION QUESTION AT UNSC. AFTER A COMMERCIAL, 25 MINUTES INTO SHOW, CHANCELLOR PICKS UP AS FOLLOWS: "WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND HIS WIFE WERE IN NEW DELHI, MRS. KISSINGER LEFT HER HUSBAND BEHIND AND WENT

OFF TO AGRA TO SEE THE ANTIQUITIES, INCLUDING ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS BUILDINGS IN THE WORLD. RICHARD VALERIANI WENT ALONG."

VALERIANI: "MRS. KISSINGER, SURROUNDED BY SECURITY AGENTS, INDIAN OFFICIALS, AND TRAILING NEWSMEN, WAS TREATED VIRTUALLY LIKE A FIRST LADY AS SHE WENT SIGHTSEEING IN AGRA WHILE MR. KISSINGER PERFORMED AS SECRETARY OF STATE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN NEW DELHI.

KVALI SINGERS IMPROVISED LYRICS ABOUT MRS. KISSINGER'S VISIT AS SHE ENTERED AN ALL-MARBLE MOSQUE BUILT TO HONOR THE HOLY MAN WHO FOUNDED THE CITY ITSELF. OUTSIDE THE MOSQUE, THERE WERE PERFORMERS OF ANOTHER KIND. (FILM OF MEN DIVING FROM ROOF OF BUILDING INTO A MOAT).

"THE HIGH POINT OF MRS. KISSINGER'S SIGHTSEEING WAS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TAJ MAHAL, ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD. A MASSIVE MONUMENT OF MARBLE, BUILT BY THE EMPEROR SHAH JAHAN MORE THAN 400 YEARS AGO, IN MEMORY OF HIS QUEEN, MUMTAZ MAHAL. IT WAS CLOSED OFF TO OTHER TOURISTS DURING MRS. KISSINGER'S VISIT. INSIDE, WHERE IT WAS TOO DARK TO FILM, A GUIDE DEMONSTRATED THE DOME'S "ECHO CHAMBER" EFFECT. THE INDIANS CLAIM THE TAJ IS BEST SEEN BY

MOONLIGHT, BUT EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS HERE DURING A PERIOD OF FULL MOON, MRS. KISSINGER DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR THAT.

"ALL OF THIS DOES NOT HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH DIPLOMACY, BUT IT DOES PROVIDE A LOT OF PRETTY PICTURES. BESIDES, I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO SIGN OFF: RICHARD VALERIANI, NBC NEWS, AT THE TAJ MAHAL."

CHANCELLOR: "THAT'S EVERYBODY'S AMBITION. GOODNIGHT, FOR NBC NEWS."

5. CBS - NO KALB; BARE MENTION OF HAK'S HOPEFUL COMMENTS ON RABAT DECISION FROM CRONKITE.

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